



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 889
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31402

REPLY TO

Regulatory Branch

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
Savannah and Charleston Districts U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
and
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

The Savannah and Charleston Districts have received a request for a Department of the Army Permit, pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Sections 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 U.S.C. 1344) as follows:

Savannah District Application Number: 200114820/200501453

Charleston District Application Number: 2005-1W-413

Applicant: Chatham County Assistant County Manager
Attention: Mr. Patrick C. Monahan
124 Bull Street
Savannah, Georgia 31412

Agent: Thomas & Hutton Engineering Company
Attention: Mr. Charles L. George, P.E.
Post Office Box 2727
Savannah, Georgia 31402

Location of Proposed Work: The project site is located in Savannah Harbor, at latitude 32° 05.038' and longitude 81° 05.043', Slip Number 1, Hutchinson Island, Chatham County, Georgia. Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) 12-A is located adjacent to the north bank of Savannah Harbor, approximately between River Mile 5.3 and 11.7, in Jasper County, South Carolina.

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: The applicant (Chatham County) proposes to extend the existing public riverwalk on Hutchinson Island by 2,200 linear feet. The proposed project would connect to the existing riverwalk that is located on the western side of the slip (Slip 1), adjacent to the Westin Hotel. Work would consist of the installation of a steel sheet pile cut-off wall that would facilitate deepening of Slip 1, which would then serve as a boat basin for recreational vessels. Additionally, the applicant would construct a pile supported walkway, a concrete deck and paver system, hand railing, and

lighting along the entire perimeter of the existing slip. Work would also include the removal of timber pile remnants, as well as the remnant of a submerged barge; all are located within the slip. Work would be performed by water-borne barge and crane vessels operating from within the slip. The construction of the proposed project is being funded by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GADOT).

In order to deepen the slip, the applicant would hydraulically dredge approximately 145,000 cubic yards of sediments and pump this dredge material to CDF 12-A. The existing bottom elevation of the slip varies from 0.0 to (-) 10.0 mean sea level (msl) and the proposed dredge elevation/depth would be (-) 15 msl. The underlying fee owner of CDF 12-A is the GADOT. By letter dated October 5, 2005, the GADOT granted permission to the County to use CDF 12-A for the proposed project. By letter dated January 5, 2006, the Savannah District Navigation Branch approved the use of CDF 12-A for the proposed project, contingent upon the applicant's compliance with the conditions outlined in this letter of approval.

Routine maintenance dredging activities of approximately 20,000 cubic yards of sediment would be performed annually. These activities would consist of hydraulic dredging with upland disposal, mechanical clamshell dredging with disposal into water borne scows or barges, agitation dredging, or hydraulic pump with discharge into the Savannah River.

Construction of the proposed project would impact approximately 0.30 acre of vegetated tidal marsh in Slip 1. The applicant proposes to mitigate for this impact by establishing tidal marsh in an excavated area on a 0.5 acre parcel of land on Hutchinson Island on the Back River side.

Please see the attached plans and drawings provided by the applicant.

BACKGROUND

On July 25, 2003, the Savannah District issued a Joint Public Notice (JPN) for this project under number 200114820; no dredging activities were included in this original permit application request. The permit application was withdrawn by the applicant on September 11, 2003, in order to complete the sediment sampling and analysis process and to address comments received from the National Marine Fisheries Services concerning impacts to Essential Fish Habitat.

The Savannah Harbor Navigation Channel is a Federal Project maintained by Savannah District. The subject project area is located adjacent to the navigation channel. Proposed dredging work would occur in Georgia waters. CDF 12-A is located in South Carolina and is primarily utilized for placement of maintenance material hydraulically dredged from the navigation channel. Since the project would impact Georgia and South Carolina waters, both states have jurisdiction pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act.

The subject project would likely result in the discharge of effluent into South Carolina waters. This discharge requires South Carolina Water Quality Certification (WQC), pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA. Discharges of effluent resulting from maintenance dredging activities in Savannah Harbor were evaluated by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental

Control (SCDHEC) as part of the review of the Savannah Harbor Long Term Management Strategy Environmental Impact Statement (LTMS EIS)." SCDHEC issued WQC for the LTMS EIS on May 10, 1996. Any release of effluent resulting from the placement of dredged material into a federal CDF is subject to the conditions contained in this WQC, and to water quality standards and water quality monitoring contained in the LTMS EIS.

The applicant sampled and tested the sediments to be dredged from Slip 1 in accordance with Savannah and Charleston District protocols. A sediment report entitled "Dredged Material Environmental Effects Evaluation, Hutchinson Island Slip 1, Savannah Harbor," was prepared and submitted to the Savannah District for review. The Savannah District found no contaminant related concerns associated with disposal of the Slip 1 sediments within the CDF 12-A.

The applicant has provided copies of the above sediment reports to the SCDHEC, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Charleston District.

This JPN announces a request for authorization from the US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Regulatory Branch, P.O. Box 889, Savannah, Georgia 31402-0889), Charleston District (Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District, Attention: Regulatory Division, 69A Hagood Avenue, Charleston, South Carolina 29403-51007), and the States of Georgia and South Carolina. The applicant's proposed work may also require local governmental approval.

STATE OF GEORGIA

Georgia Coastal Management Program: Prior to the Savannah District Engineer making a final permit decision on this application, the project must be certified by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division, to be consistent with applicable provisions of the State of Georgia Coastal Management Program (15 CFR 930). Anyone wishing to comment on Coastal Management Program certification of the project should submit comments in writing within 30 days of the date of this notice to the Federal Consistency Coordinator, Ecological Services Section, Coastal Resources Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, One Conservation Way, Brunswick, Georgia 31523-8600 (telephone 912-264-7218).

State-owned Property and Resources: The applicant may also require assent from the State of Georgia which may be in the form of a license, easement, lease, permit, or other appropriate instrument.

Marshland Protection: This notice also serves as notification of a request to alter coastal marshlands (under the provision of the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act, Georgia Laws, 1970, p. 939 and as amended), if required. Comments concerning this action should be submitted to the Ecological Services Section, Coastal Resources Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, One Conservation Way, Brunswick, Georgia 31523-8600 (telephone 912-264-7218).

Water Quality Certification: The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, intends to certify this project at the end of 30 days in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, which is required by an applicant for a Federal Permit to conduct an activity in, on, or adjacent to the waters of the State of Georgia. Copies of the application and supporting documents relative to a specific application will be available for review and copying at the office of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, Water Protection Branch, 4220 International Parkway, Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia 30354, during regular office hours. A copying machine is available for public use at a charge of 25 cents per page. Any person who desires to comment, object, or request a public hearing relative to State Water Quality Certification must do so within 30 days of the State's receipt of application in writing and state the reasons or basis of objections or request for a hearing. The application can also be seen in the Savannah District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch, 100 West Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah, Georgia.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The Savannah District Engineer has concluded that the discharge of effluent into the Savannah River that would result from pumping project dredged material into CDF 12-A should be reviewed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) in accordance with provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. As such, this notice constitutes a request, on behalf of the applicant, for certification that this work would comply with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. SCDHEC will review this request and notify the Savannah District as to whether the proposed effluent discharges associated with the placement of dredged material in CDF 12-A would comply with the terms and conditions of the Savannah Harbor Long Term Management Strategy Environmental Impact Statement (LTMS EIS) Water Quality Certification, issued by SCDHEC on May 10, 1996.

The proposed effluent releases associated with the dredged material disposal work shown on this request must also be certified as consistent with applicable provisions of the Coastal Zone Management Program (15 CFR 930). The Savannah District Engineer will not process this permit application to a conclusion until such certifications are received. The proposed effluent releases may also require evaluation for compliance with the South Carolina Construction in Navigable Waters Permit Program. State of South Carolina review, permitting and certification is conducted by the SCDHEC. The permittee is hereby advised that supplemental information may be required by the State of South Carolina to facilitate review. Persons wishing to comment or object to State of South Carolina certification or the navigable waters permit must submit all comments in writing within thirty (30) days of the date of this notice to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Office of Environmental Quality Control, Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Program Section, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina, 29201.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The Savannah and Charleston Districts must consider the purpose and the impacts of the applicant's proposed work prior to a decision on issuance of a Department of the Army Permit.

Cultural Resources Assessment: On June 30, 2003, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), as lead federal agency for this project, determined that the proposed project would adversely affect the Fig Island Channel Derelict, a contributing element to the eligible Fig Island Channel Site (9CH738), and that the proposed project would have no adverse effect to Slip 1 (archaeological site 9CH376). These determinations are conditioned upon the applicant's compliance with the stipulations of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), signed May 23, 2003, by Chatham County; May 28, 2003, by GADOT; June 2, 2003, by the Georgia Historic Preservation Division (GAHPD); and June 30, 2003, by the FHWA. By letter dated June 2, 2003, the GAHPD concurred with these determinations.

No other known registered properties, or properties listed as eligible for inclusion, are located at the site or in the area affected by the proposed work. Unknown archaeological, scientific, prehistorical, or historical data may be located at the site and could be affected by the proposed work.

Endangered Species: After review of the project description and information, and informal consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), the FHWA administration, as lead federal agency for this project, determined that with the addition of Special Provision 107.23, the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the wood stork (*Mycteria americana*), the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), the west Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), the green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), the leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), the Kemp's Ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempi*), and the hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*). The FHWA also determined that the proposed project would have no effect on other federally listed threatened or endangered species. By letter of June 26, 2003, the FHWA requested concurrence with their determinations. The USFWS concurred with these determinations on July 2, 2003.

Should a draft Department of the Army permit be issued for the subject project, Special Provision 107.23 Protection of Federally Threatened and/or Endangered Species would be included as special conditions.

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH): This notice reinitiates the EFH consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal would result in the destruction of approximately 0.30 acre of EFH utilized by various life stages of species comprising the red drum, shrimp, bluefish or snapper-grouper management complexes. The applicant proposes to mitigate for these impacts by establishing tidal marsh in an excavated area on a 0.5 acre parcel of land on Hutchinson Island on the Back River side. Our initial determination is that the proposed project would not have individual or cumulative substantial

adverse impacts on EFH or federally managed fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean. Our final determination relative to project impacts to EFH and the need for mitigation measures are subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS and the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council.

Public Interest Review: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity, on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and in general, needs and welfare of people.

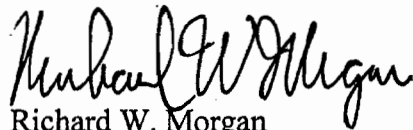
Consideration of Public Comments: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Application of Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines : The proposed activity involves the discharge of effluent into the waters of the United States. The Savannah and Charleston District's evaluation of the impact of the effluent discharge on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

Public Hearing: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application for a Department of the Army Permit. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for requesting a public hearing. The decision whether to hold a public hearing is at the discretion of the District Engineer, or his designated appointee, based on the need for additional substantial information necessary in evaluating the proposed project.

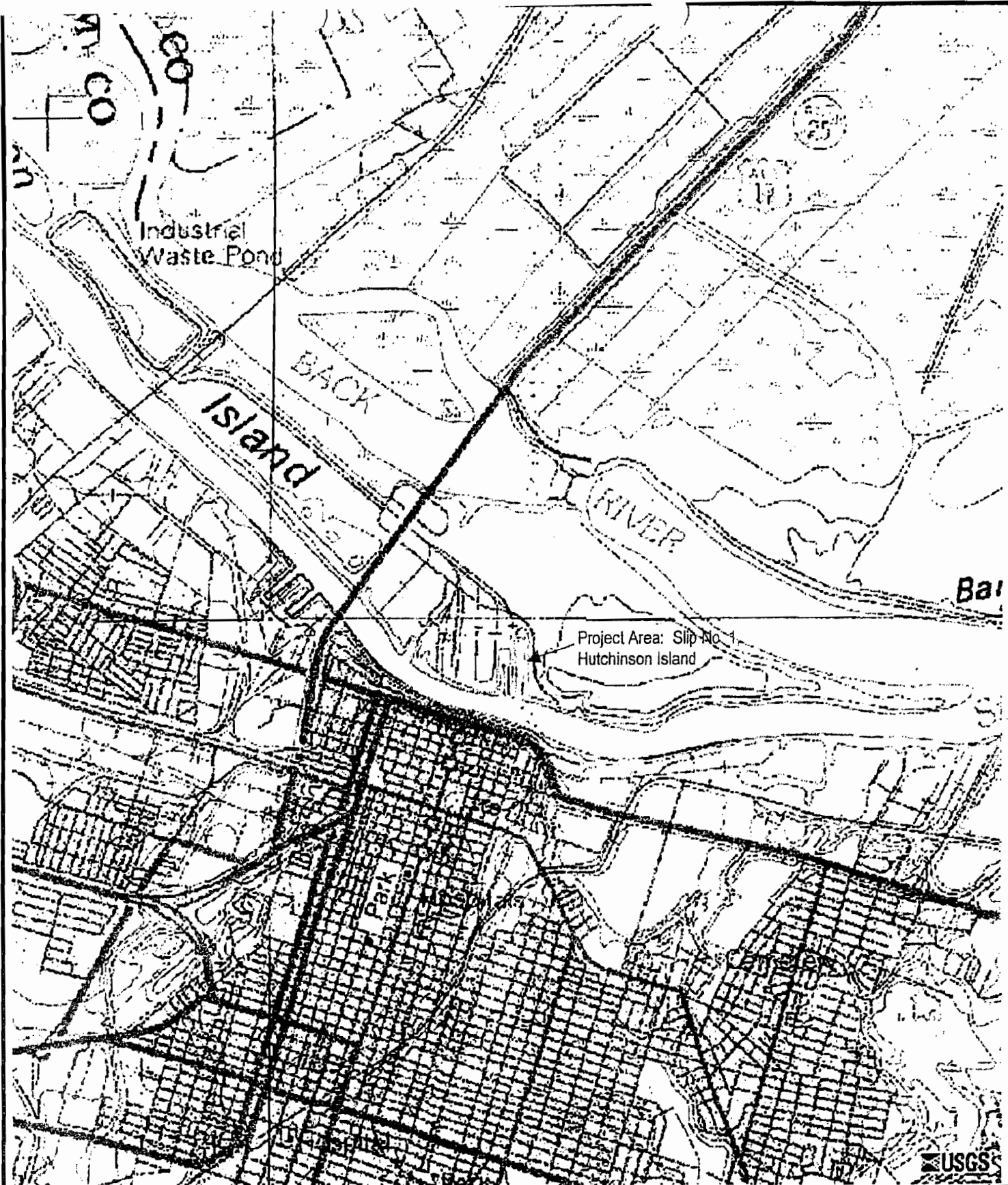
Comment Period: Anyone wishing to comment on this application for a Department of the Army Permit should submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Regulatory Branch, P.O. Box 889, Savannah, Georgia 31402-0889, no later than 30 days from the date of this notice. All written comments, whether from South Carolina or Georgia, should be submitted to the Savannah District address noted above. Savannah District will then forward all of these comments to the Charleston District. When commenting, please refer to the applicant's name and the application number in your letter.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Lori Beckwith of the Savannah District Regulatory Branch at (912) 652-5018.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard W. Morgan".

Richard W. Morgan
Team Leader, Southern Section

Enclosures



Scale: NTS

Date: June 2003

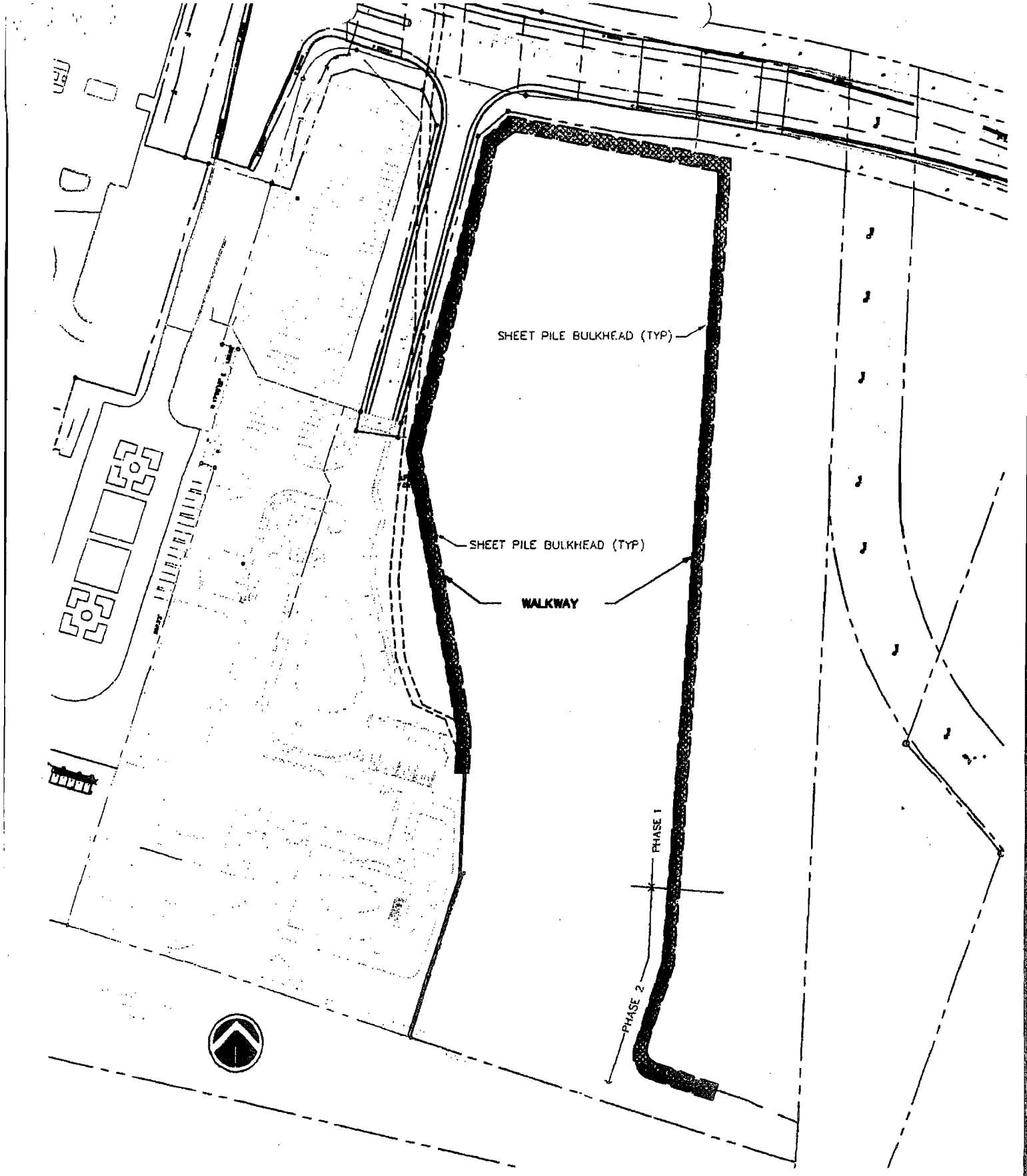
Checked By: SDM



SITE VICINITY MAP
 Slip No. 1 Hutchinson Island
 Savannah, Georgia
 S&ME Project No.: 1134-03-377

Figure No.:

1



SCALE: 1"=150'

APPROVED BY:

DRAWN BY: LAJ

DATE: 6-17-03

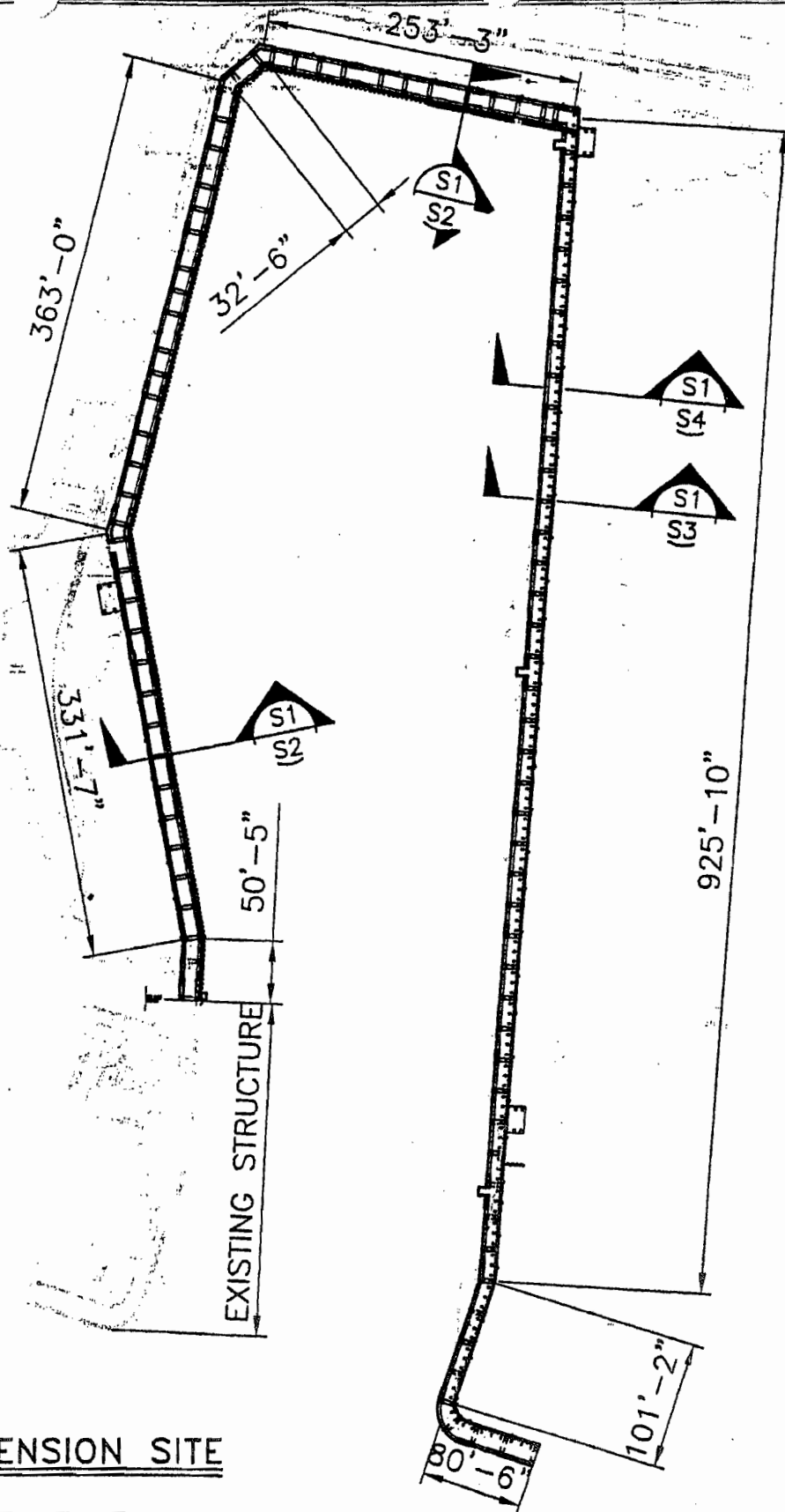


SLIP NO. 1
HUTCHINSON ISLAND
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

JOB NO: 1134-03-377

FIGURE NO.
3

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. DRAWINGS MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN ANY FORM WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION.



RIVER WALK EXTENSION SITE

NTS

HUSSEY, GAY, BELL & DEYOUNG INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

POST OFFICE BOX 14247
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA
31418-1247

329 COMMERCIAL DRIVE
OFFICE (912) 354-4628
TELEFAX (912) 354-8754



HUTCHINSON ISLAND RIVERWALK EXTENSION
FOR
CHATHAM COUNTY

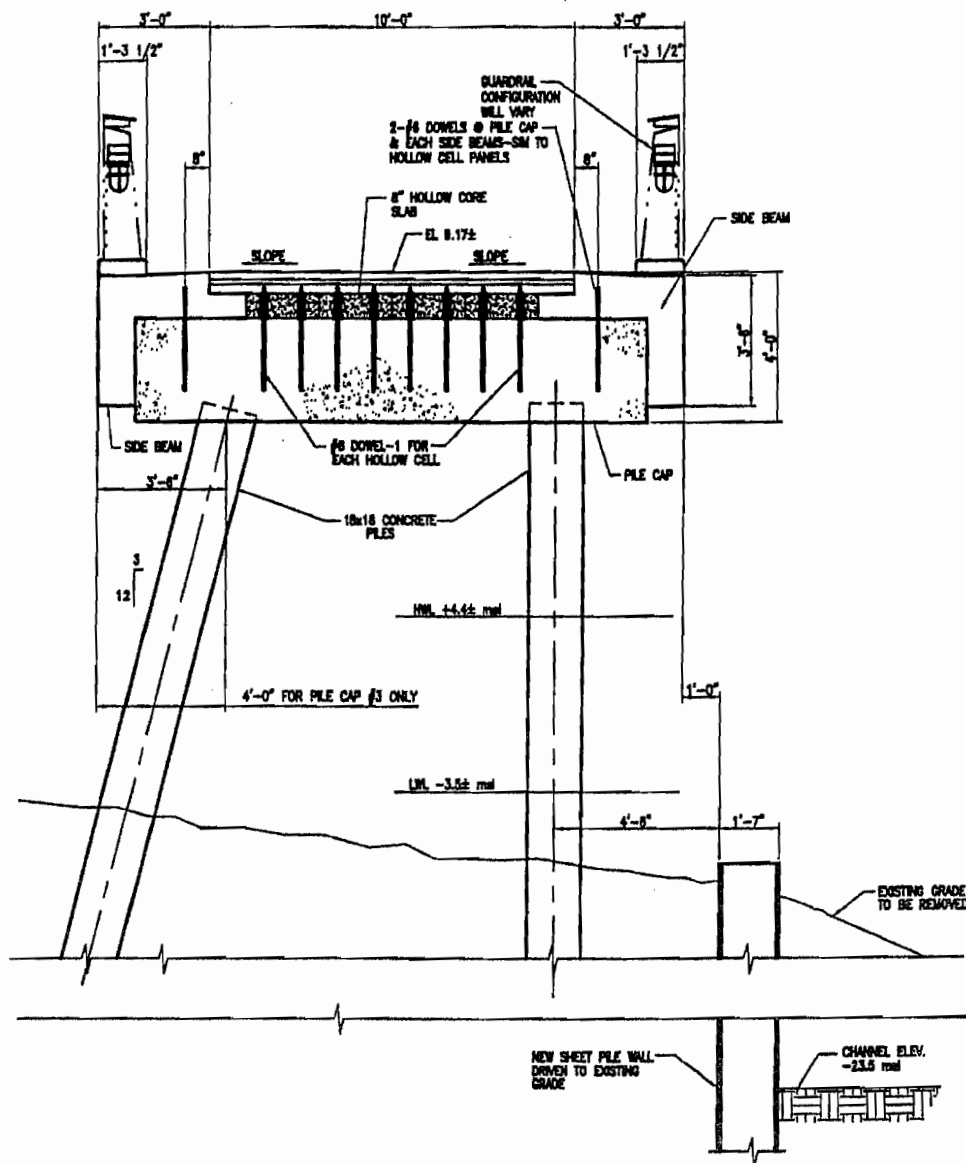
SITE PLAN

DATE 6-26-03
DRAWN BY: KRW
CHECKED BY: RTH
APPROVED BY: RTH

SHEET . NUMBER

S1

5 OF 8 SHEETS



SECTION

NTS

S1
S2

HUSSEY, GAY, BELL & DEYOUNG INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

POST OFFICE BOX 14247
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA
31418-1247

328 COMMERCIAL DRIVE
OFFICE (912) 354-4428
TELEFAX (912) 354-8754



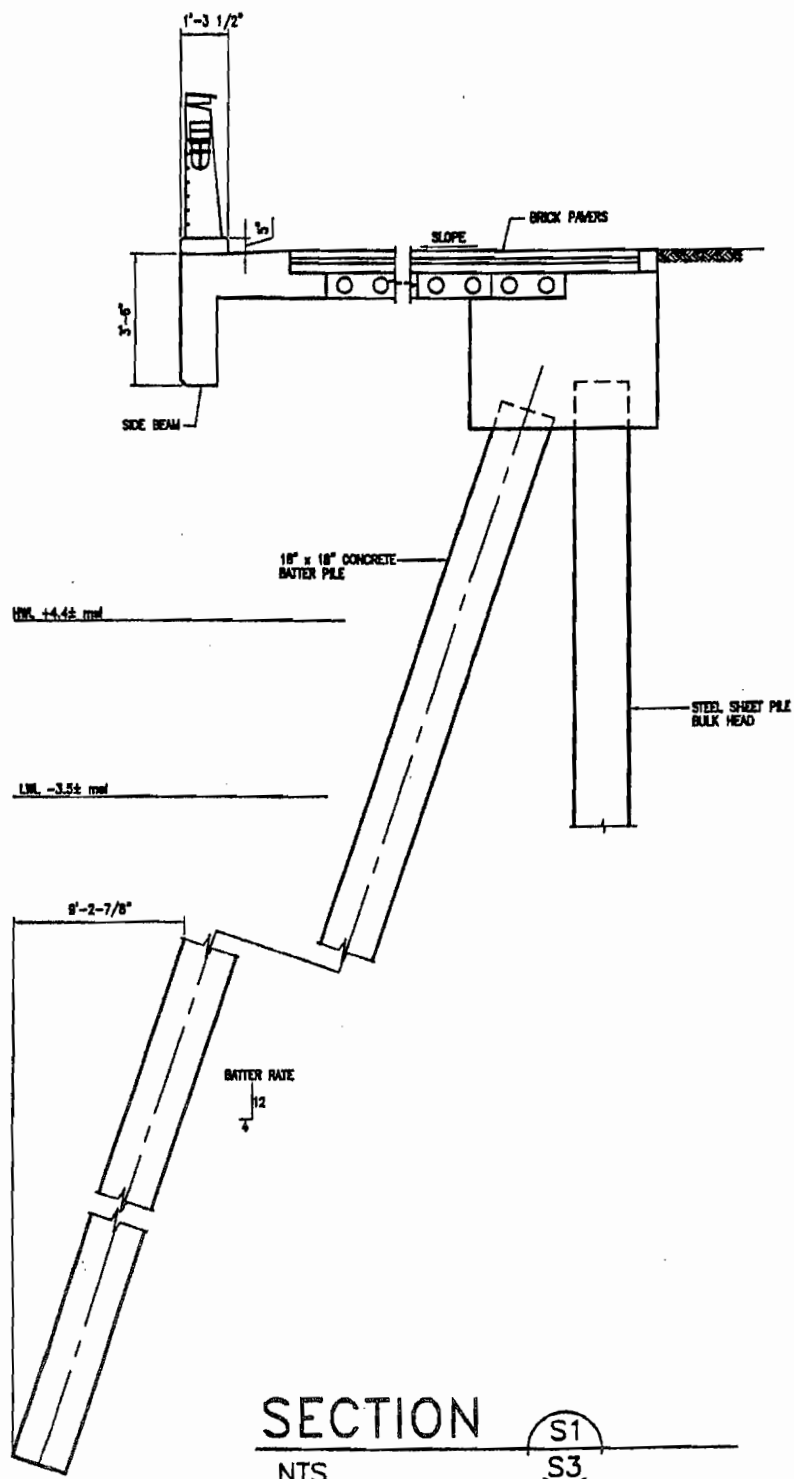
HUTCHINSON ISLAND RIVERWALK EXTENSION
FOR
CHATHAM COUNTY

SECTION

DATE 6-26-03
DRAWN BY: KRW
CHECKED BY: RTH
APPROVED BY: RTH

SHEET . NUMBER
S2
6 OF 8 SHEETS

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. DRAWINGS MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN ANY FORM WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION



HUSSEY, GAY, BELL & DEYOUNG INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

POST OFFICE BOX 14247
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA
31418-1247

329 COMMERCIAL DRIVE
OFFICE (912) 354-4828
TELEFAX (912) 354-6784

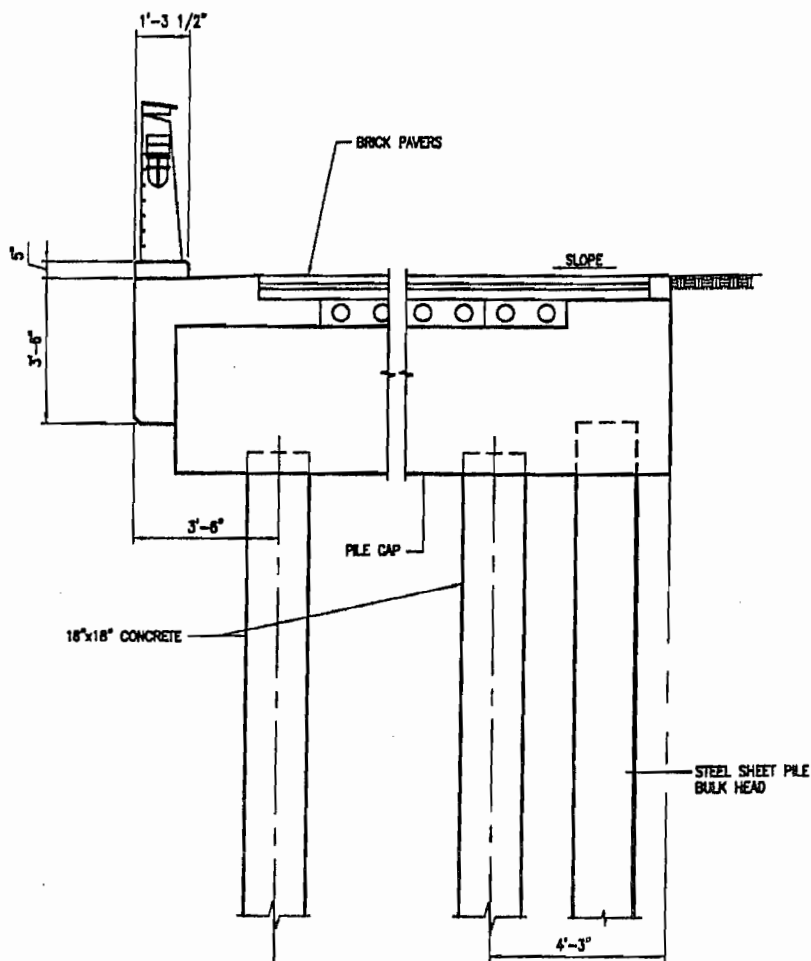


HUTCHINSON ISLAND RIVERWALK EXTENSION
FOR
CHATHAM COUNTY

SECTION

DATE 8-28-03
DRAWN BY: KRW
CHECKED BY: RTH
APPROVED BY: RTH

SHEET . NUMBER
S3
7 OF 8 SHEETS



SECTION

NTS

S1
S4

HUSSEY, GAY, BELL & DEYOUNG INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

POST OFFICE BOX 14247
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA
31418-1247

329 COMMERCIAL DRIVE
OFFICE (912) 354-4828
TELEFAX (912) 354-8754

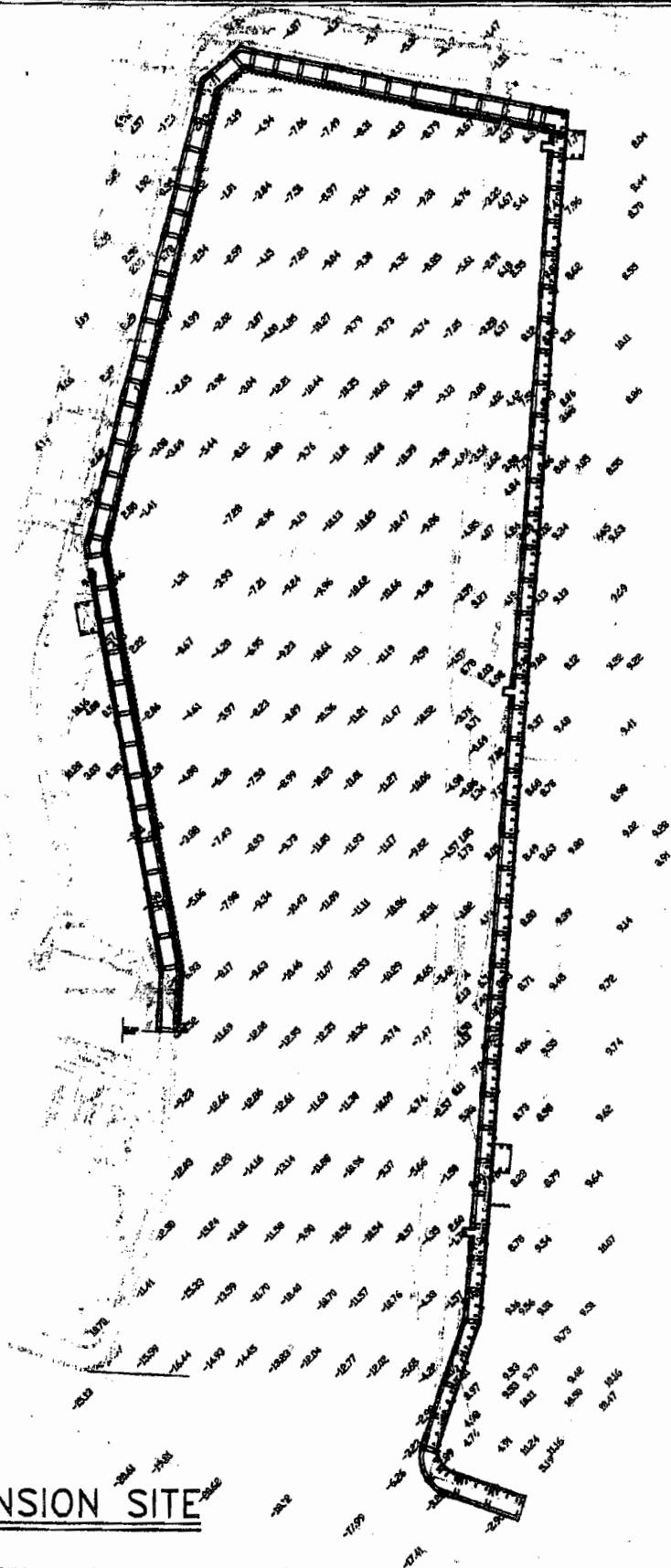


HUTCHINSON ISLAND RIVERWALK EXTENSION
FOR
CHATHAM COUNTY

SECTION

DATE 8-26-03
DRAWN BY: KRW
CHECKED BY: RTH
APPROVED BY: RTH

SHEET NUMBER
S4
8 OF 8 SHEETS



RIVER WALK EXTENSION SITE

NTS

HUSSEY, GAY, BELL & DEYOUNG INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

POST OFFICE BOX 14247
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA
31416-1247

328 COMMERCIAL DRIVE
OFFICE (912) 354-4828
TELEFAX (912) 354-6754



HUTCHINSON ISLAND RIVERWALK EXTENSION
FOR
CHATHAM COUNTY

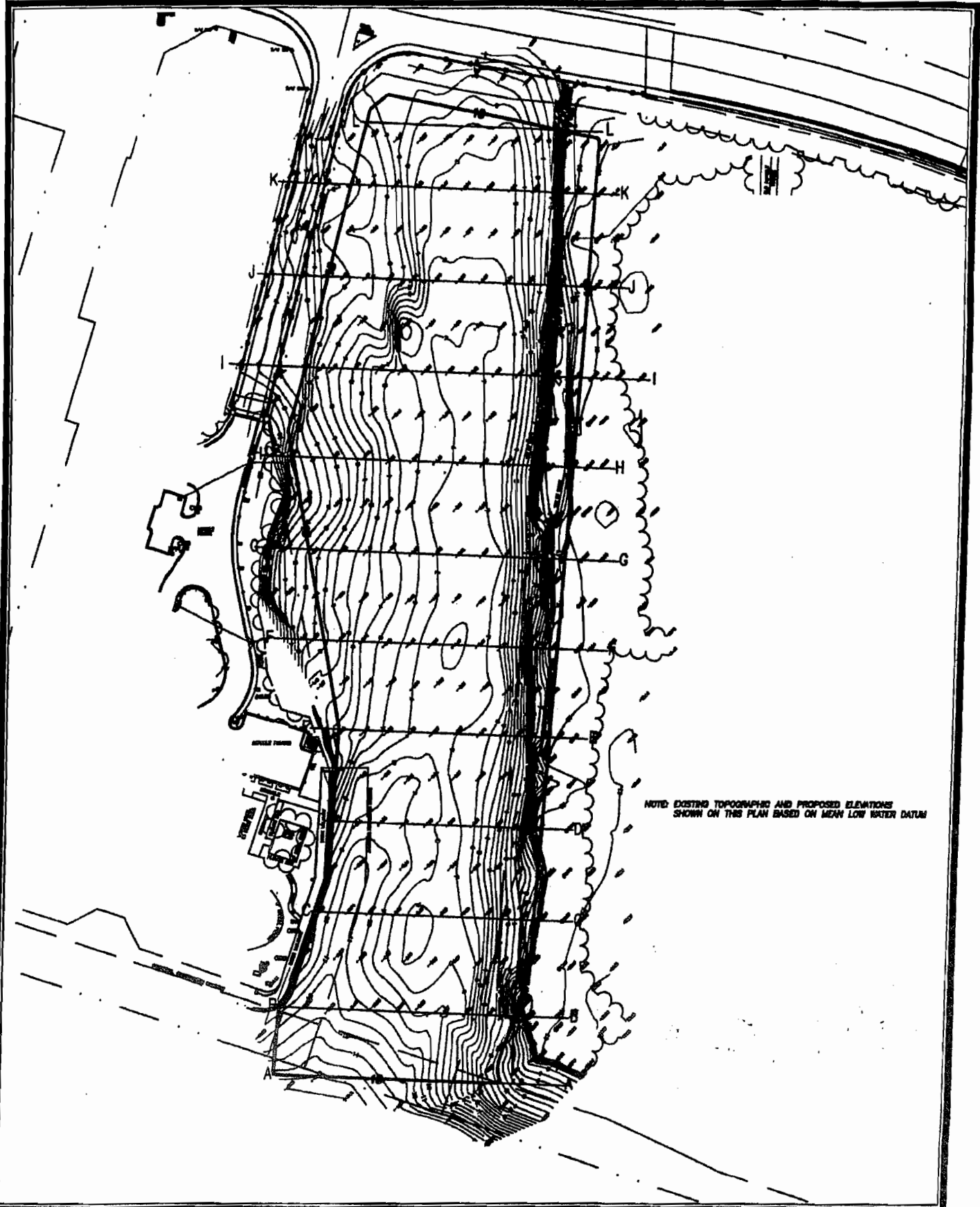
HYDRO & TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY

DATE 6-26-03
DRAWN BY: KRW
CHECKED BY: RTH
APPROVED BY: RTH

SHEET . NUMBER

C1

1 OF 8 SHEETS



NOTE: EXISTING TOPOGRAPHIC AND PROPOSED ELEVATIONS SHOWN ON THIS PLAN BASED ON MEAN LOW WATER DATUM

HUSSEY, GAY, BELL & DEYOUNG INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

POST OFFICE BOX 14247
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA
31418-1247

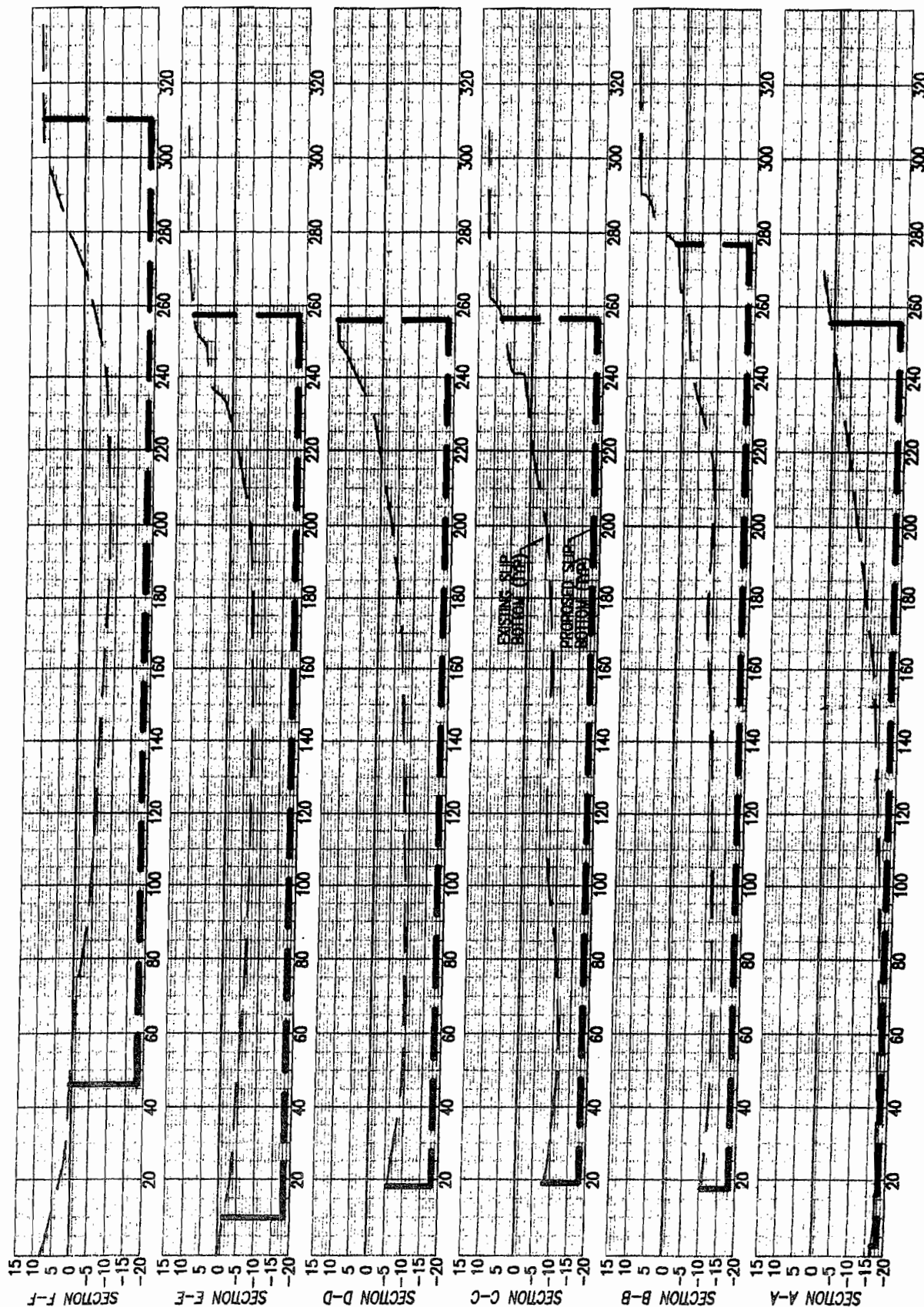
328 COMMERCIAL DRIVE
OFFICE (912) 354-4820
TELEFAX (912) 354-0754



HUTCHINSON ISLAND RIVERWALK EXTENSION
FOR
CHATHAM COUNTY
DREDGING PLAN

DATE 6-26-03
DRAWN BY: KRW
CHECKED BY: RTH
APPROVED BY: RTH

SHEET . NUMBER
C2
2 OF 6 SHEETS



HUSSEY, GAY, BELL & DEYOUNG INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

POST OFFICE BOX 14247
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA
31418-1247

329 COMMERCIAL DRIVE
OFFICE (912) 354-4420
TELEFAX (912) 354-8754



HUTCHINSON ISLAND RIVERWALK EXTENSION
FOR
CHATHAM COUNTY

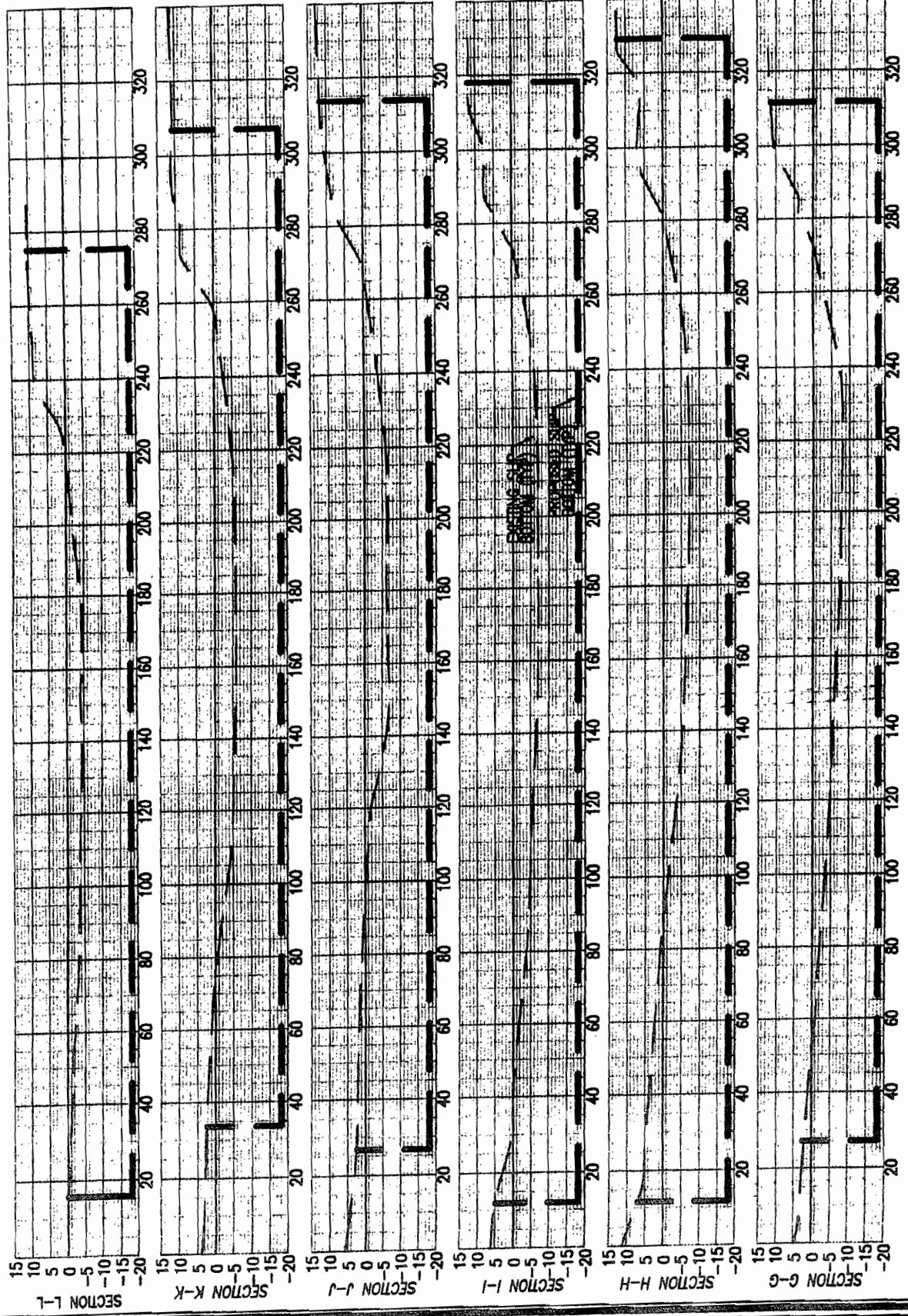
SECTIONS

DATE 8-26-03
DRAWN BY: KRW
CHECKED BY: RTH
APPROVED BY: RTH

SHEET NUMBER

C3

3 OF 8 SHEETS



HUSSEY, GAY, BELL & DEYOUNG INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

POST OFFICE BOX 14247
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA
31418-1247

328 COMMERCIAL DRIVE
OFFICE (912) 394-4628
TELEFAX (912) 394-0794



HUTCHINSON ISLAND RIVERWALK EXTENSION
FOR
CHATHAM COUNTY

SECTIONS

DATE 8-26-03
DRAWN BY: KRW
CHECKED BY: RTH
APPROVED BY: RTH

SHEET NUMBER
C4
4 OF 8 SHEETS